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Security Information

AUG 31 1953

Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

Acting Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence

Transmittal of Memoranda Concerning Communist Propaganda
Attacks on American Science

1. The attached memoranda for record of our recent discussions of the current Communist propaganda attack upon American Science in Western Europe are forwarded for your information at the suggestion of [redacted]

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[redacted] 25X1

Attachments:

1. Memoranda for Record dated 3 August 1953, 10 August 1953 and 21 July 1953.

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OSI: [redacted] :kvl

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee
4 - Ops/SI

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Chief, Operations Staff, O/SI

Deputy Chief, Operations Staff, O/SI

AD/SI

DAD/SI

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Operations Staff, O/SI

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

10 August 1953

SUBJECT: French Communist Press Attack on U.S. Science

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1. Following the report of [redacted] on the rather inconclusive meeting with Mr. Jesse MacKnight of the State Department, on this subject of French attacks on the Science Attachés, [redacted] and the undersigned.

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2. [redacted] seems to feel that, abroad, the CCF has already established a good basis for combating French Communist attacks on US science so the principal purpose of his visit was to determine what additional action should be initiated at this end. He is primarily interested in getting our recommendations as to the advisability of selecting certain American members of CCF and forming them into an Advisory group. Presumably, this group could both advise him as to what additional counter propaganda methods should be initiated overseas and also help convey the impression to US scientists in general that CCF, for one, is an organization which believes that, within the obvious bounds of security, freedom of intercourse between scientists is essential.

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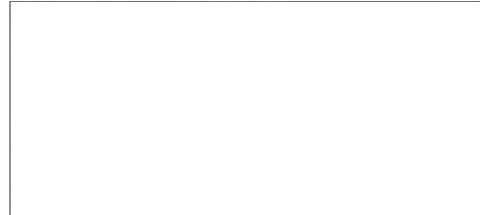
3. We have agreed to look over the list of US scientists and advise [redacted] and he, in his turn, will show us the complete proceedings of the recent meeting [redacted] as soon as he has them. We shall try to advise him as to what should receive widest dissemination in the US and shall also assist him in any way possible on other matters involving handling and methods of distribution among scientific circles.

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CSI/[redacted] jd



Distribution:

Orig - subject

1 - chrono

1 - daily reading

1 - extra

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Chief, Operations Staff, O/SI

Deputy Chief, Operations Staff, O/SI

AD/SI

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[Redacted] Operations Staff, O/SI

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3 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Ramifications of the Current Communist Propaganda Attacks
on American Science - Liaison with Department of State
and [redacted]

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1. At the request of [redacted] 25X1
met this date with Mr. Jesse MacKnight, Office of Policy and Plans,
International Information Administration, Department of State, [redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] to discuss various
ramifications of the recent Communist propaganda attacks upon American
science, particularly those in the French Press. At [redacted] 25X1
request, Mr. MacKnight opened the meeting by explaining that he had
turned to CIA for assistance in obtaining: (a) an intelligence estimate
of the effectiveness and probable future trends of the Communist propa-
ganda attacks upon American science in Western European countries, and (b)
suggestions as to the most effective counter propaganda line for the
U.S. to adopt.

25X1 2. [redacted] stated that O/SI took a very grave view of the
effectiveness of the Communist attack and felt that the campaign offered
a substantial threat of further serious injury to the relations between
American scientists and their Western European counterparts. This would
not only reduce the flow of scientific data useful to American research
and development programs and the development of valuable foreign intelligence
concerning [redacted] Communist Bloc countries but, also,
will tend to reorient French science towards the east. He emphasized that
an evaluation of the probable effectiveness of the Communist campaign must
be made against the background of the success of the Communists' general
effort to convince European intellectuals that the U.S. is actually controlled
by a reactionary group headed by Senator McCarthy who are so powerful that
they have destroyed intellectual freedom in the U.S. and terrorized American
scientists into surrendering their birthright of free supra-national scientific
inquiry. He stated that from many sources, including its consultants
who have recently returned from Europe, O/SI has received reports verifying
the growth of this general impression among European scientists and emphasizing
that the proof positive for the European is the U.S. visa and passport policy
which makes it impossible for European scientists of any leftist sentiment
to come to the U.S., and seriously discourages both U.S. and British scientists
from having professional intercourse with leftist Western European scientists
and a fortiori with scientists from the Communist Bloc states.

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3. Turning to the question of the best counter-attack, [redacted] 25X1 stated that, obviously, the best action would be for the U.S. to reverse its present visa and passport policy and give the lie to the Communist charges by openly encouraging European scientists, including those of leftist sympathy, and even ex-Communists in certain instances, to visit the U.S. Also, within the normal bounds of security, American Scientists must be allowed to discuss their substantive fields freely while abroad, regardless of the political affiliation of those with whom they have common professional interests. Within the existing limitations, he suggested that a maximum effort be made in both the American and the European press to stress the continuing American devotion to the principles of free interchange of scientific information whenever possible, short of endangering national security, and to play up specific instances which illustrate this devotion on the part of individual American scientists or scientific organizations.

4. As illustrations of developments which might lend themselves to such publicity, he cited recent Agency moves advocating the establishment of rapport with Japanese scientists and a concrete discussion with State about the problem of American scientists accepting invitations to attend meetings behind the Iron Curtain with impunity. He expressed the opinion, however, that such a campaign could not at this juncture, hope to achieve more than a stemming of the tide of European opinion since the Communists will always be able to "outnumber" us with instances where visas or passports have been denied or American scientists have rejected bids to meet with "controversial" foreigners. It must also be recognized that there is an implicit danger in exceptions, as "exceptions" must inevitably appear to Europeans to have been exempted from the general ruling because of primarily nefarious and unscientific objectives, such as intelligence collection. He added that the only effective solution would be a general attack upon the McCarran Act obstacles and that it was O/SI's position that the primary impetus for this attack should come not from CIA but from the office of the Science Advisor to the Secretary of State and from the National Science Foundation which has the statutory responsibility for fostering the interchange of scientific information among scientists in the U.S. and foreign countries.

5. Mr. MacKnight replied that he was in agreement with O/SI's assessment of the danger and in sympathy with its desire to see the basic problem attacked. He agreed to discuss the matter with the Science Advisor with an eye to the formulation of specific recommendations to the Secretary of State or to the National Security Council. He then stated that an additional propaganda challenge which concerned him was that of building up the backbone of American scientists so that, despite the present unsatisfactory circumstances, they would refrain from abetting the Communist cause by immediately agreeing with foreign doubters that the U.S. was indeed in the iron grip of McCarthyism, as portrayed in the European press, and would point out that there are a few restrictions on the free scientific spirit in Communist countries also.

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6. [redacted] mentioned [redacted] interest in the Congress for Cultural Freedom and the satisfactory results of the recent seminar on "Science and Freedom" held at Hamburg University. She suggested that this might offer an excellent opportunity for the kind of

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publicity [redacted] had mentioned in both the American and European press. This led into a discussion of the problem of finding proper outlets for propaganda intended both to counter the Communist's attack upon American science and to encourage American scientists themselves to counter-attack. It was agreed that O/SI would prepare and forward [redacted] a list of suggested American scientists and journalists covering scientific topics who might prove to be effective spokesmen in publications reaching both domestic and foreign scientific communities.

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OSI [redacted]: bfb

Distribution:

- 1 - subject - French Science
- 1 - chrono
- 1 - daily reading & file State Liaison
- 1 - [redacted]
- 1 - extra
- 1 - [redacted]
/ Avjci
/ PSC/EI

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21 July 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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SUBJECT: Doctor Samuel Goudsmit on Royalists Among French Physicists

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1. At the suggestion of [redacted] relayed through Doctor [redacted] called the undersigned from [redacted] office and a meeting was arranged for 1415 hours on 16 July. In addition to the undersigned, the meeting was attended by [redacted]

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2. The primary purpose of the meeting was to listen to [redacted] thoughts on the extent to which the Royalists in France are playing into the hands of the communists. [redacted]

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[redacted] explained that his knowledge of French politics was limited to the very small cross section as represented by French physicists. He also explained that his thoughts on this particular problem would have to be illustrated in a comparatively narrow field of physics.

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3. [redacted] told us that for many years the communists have supported or favored a dialectic materialism approach to the quantum theory, the chief proponent to this approach being David Bohm, the American communist, now living in Brazil. By and large, other physicists line up behind Bohr's approach to the quantum theory. With this introduction, [redacted] stated that he had recently noticed that de Broglie, a Royalist, had reversed a position of 30 years and had espoused Bohm's approach. As a matter of fact, de Broglie has even presented the dialectic materialism approach on the quantum theory to L'Academie Francaise. Doctor Goudsmit explained that, furthermore, he had noted that pupils of de Broglie had contributed to the leftist press and he cited the names of two of these to King as having been involved in the production of "Un Plan U.S.A. De Mainmise sur La Science." 25X1A

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4. The questioning of Doctor Goudsmit as to his theory on what lay behind this peculiar situation led to a general conclusion that the Royalists were fundamentally French isolationists who considered the first essential objective of France to be the exclusion from that country of the U.S.A. or other interfering foreign elements. These Royalists apparently regard French communists lightly, believing them to be simply another political

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party, not directed by Moscow and not presenting the threat of domination by the USSR. We explored this idea at some length and, although [redacted] was for the most part trying to confine himself to his knowledge of French physicists and possibly mathematicians, he obviously had the feeling that French scientists among the Royalists ranks are generally more opposed to the U.S.A. than alarmed about communism.

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5. [redacted] maintained that young French scientists would have no compunction about working in the laboratory of a communist scientist and probably one reason why there was such resentment about the plan for an international atomic energy laboratory was the fact that French scientists had the impression that this would be a U.S.A.-controlled project and that McCarthy security standards would probably be used to determine the suitability of scientists to work in this laboratory, rather than their true worth being judged by any scientific yardstick. It is, of course, a known fact that the European press has built up the McCarthy ogre to extraordinary proportions and has represented him as being the true President of the United States.

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6. When asked for some of his ideas as to what might be done to make European scientists feel more friendly towards us, [redacted] repeated most of the theories he has already expressed in his memoranda with particular emphasis, in this instance, on adopting a much more conciliatory attitude towards the ex-leftists.

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It is interesting to note that he named Pierre Auger as one of these. [redacted] maintains that these ex-leftists can not help but feel alarmed and resentful at the stringency of the McCarran Act, and that they, as well as French scientists in general, are rather contemptuous of the extent to which U.S. scientists and educators have been scared and bulldozed by McCarthy.

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7. During the course of our discussion on the handling of ex-leftist scientists, it was agreed that the present U.S. attitude made it extremely unlikely that they would be forthcoming with information to American visitors and the question arose as to what could be done to exploit them, short of modifying or forgetting about the McCarran Act. In this connection, the undersigned theorized that [redacted] previous close connection with intelligence would undoubtedly make him one of those least likely to gain the confidence of this type of man.

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[redacted], however, does not subscribe to this theory one bit. He maintains that a number of the scientists have information which they would like to make known in intelligence channels but they will not wish to approach United States officials because of the official U.S. attitude towards them,

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nor, in most instances, would they be willing to pass on to the ordinary American scientist information reflecting possible knowledge of Soviet science. In the case of [redacted] however, they will recognize an individual who is a sympathetic scientist and at the same time most probably enjoys a pipeline to intelligence. To him, according to [redacted] they would be willing to air opinions and pass information. [redacted] maintains that his experience during the last war conclusively proved this point, and it was interesting to note that [redacted] felt that he was correct and that [redacted] probably stood a better chance of getting information than either officials or scientists not known to have [redacted] type of connection with intelligence.

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- 1 - Subject
- 1 - Chrono
- 1 - Daily Reading
- / - A b/c

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